

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

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Mr. Roy W. Johnson  
Director, ARPA  
Washington 25, D. C.

23 SEP 1959

Dear Roy,

I understand that ARPA would like to use one of the Discoverer vehicles this winter to place in orbit a nuclear power source (SNAP ENGINE) towards certain scientific objectives in the field of atomic energy. This would, of course, require the use of a vehicle now scheduled to carry a CORONA payload which has been fabricated and is ready for use this winter.

Although I feel that our program carries the highest priority, I recognize that for cover purposes and for other reasons it would be advantageous to our program to include the AEC payload sometime between 1 December and 1 February. I am therefore willing to defer one CORONA launch to a later date provided that ARPA arranges the funding and procurement of an additional Thor-AIRLA for firing in the 1960 CORONA program. This would increase the number of vehicles in that program from eight to nine, the extra launch to take place late in 1960.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.  
Richard M. Bissell, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

25X1  
DPD-DD/P: [redacted]

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